Amendments to the Specification:

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 24, with the following redlined paragraph:

The disclosed embodiments of ~~to~~ the present invention provide a method of ~~forming an executable program from~~ linking a plurality of object code modules to form an executable program, each object code module including section data, a set of relocation instructions and one or more symbols, each symbol having a plurality of attributes associated therewith, wherein ~~said~~ the relocation instructions ~~includes~~ include a data retrieval instruction having a symbol field identifying a symbol and an attribute field identifying a symbol attribute associated with ~~said~~ the identified symbol to be retrieved, the method including: reading at least one relocation instruction from ~~said~~ the set of ~~relocations~~ relocation instructions and where ~~said~~ the relocation instruction is a data retrieval instruction, determining the symbol identified by the symbol field and retrieving one of ~~said~~ the plurality of symbol attributes associated with ~~said~~ the symbol in dependence on the contents of the symbol attributes field of ~~said~~ the instruction.

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 10, with the following redlined paragraph:

There is also provided a method of ~~forming an executable program from~~ linking a plurality of object code modules to form an executable program, each object code module including section data, a set of relocation instructions and one or more symbols, each symbol having a plurality of symbol attributes associated therewith, ~~said~~ the symbol attributes including ~~said~~ the symbol value, wherein ~~said~~ the relocation instructions include a data retrieval instruction having a symbol field identifying one of ~~said~~ the symbols and an attribute field identifying one of ~~said~~ the plurality of symbol attributes associated with ~~said~~ the identified symbol to be retrieved, the method including: reading at least one relocation instruction from ~~said~~ the set of relocations; recording a pass value indicative of the number of times ~~said~~ the set of relocation instructions have been read; where ~~said~~ the relocation instruction is a data retrieval instruction, identifying

the symbol identified by ~~said~~ the symbol field, determining if ~~said~~ the associated symbol value has been retrieved by a further data retrieval instruction during the current or previous repetition of ~~said~~ the set of relocation instructions, and responsive to ~~said~~ the determination, placing a predetermined value in a store.

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 23, with the following redlined paragraph:

There is additionally provided a computer program product for ~~forming an executable program from~~ linking a plurality of object code modules to form an executable program, ~~said~~ the computer program product including program code having section data, a set of relocation instructions and one or more symbols, each symbol having a plurality of attributes ~~associates~~ associated therewith, wherein ~~said~~ the relocation instructions ~~includes~~ include a data retrieval instruction having a symbol field identifying a symbol and an attribute field identifying a symbol attribute associated with ~~said~~ the identified symbol to be retrieved, ~~said~~ the program code arranged so that, when run on a computer, the steps of the method defined herein are performed.

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 3, with the following redlined paragraph:

There is further provided a computer program product for ~~forming an executable program from~~ linking a plurality of object code modules to form an executable program, ~~said~~ the computer program product including program code having section data, a set of relocation instructions and one or more symbols, each symbol having a plurality of symbol attributes associated therewith, ~~said~~ the symbol attributes including ~~said~~ the symbol value, wherein ~~said~~ the relocation instructions ~~includes~~ include a data retrieval instruction having a symbol field identifying one of ~~said~~ the symbols and an attribute field identifying one of ~~said~~ the plurality of symbol attributes ~~associates~~ associated with ~~said~~ the identified symbol to be retrieved, ~~said~~ the

program code arranged so that, when run on a computer, the steps of the method defined herein are performed.

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3, with the following redlined paragraph:

Each assembler generates an object code module that includes sets of section data, each set of section data having a set of relocations generated by the assembler to describe how the section data is to be patched so as to render it compatible with other section data to form the program 5. These relocations are generated by the assembler. ~~Section~~ The section data ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of code sequences executable in the final program~~,~~ and data values to be accessed by the executing program.

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 15, with the following redlined paragraph:

If it transpires that ~~dung~~ during linking a symbol is not accessed by a R_ATTRIB symbol value instruction, the value of the SF_PASS symbol field will remain at zero. Because of this such symbols will evaluate R_ATTRIB_symbol referenced as zero in subsequent passes. Consequently the user can instruct the linker to remove the section data that the symbol labels by using a conditional R_IF instruction as follows: